



### LGBTQ Youth & Relationship Violence The Problem

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning (LGBTQQ) youth experience dating abuse at the same rates and in similar ways as heterosexual couples do. In fact, one in three young people -- straight, gay and everyone in between -- experience some form of dating abuse (*loveisrespect.org*).

A study of self-identified GLBT youth measured five types of violence: controlling behaviors, threats to physical safety, emotional abuse, physical abuse, and sexual abuse. Of the males, 43.6 percent had experienced at least one type of abuse from a same-sex partner, and 39.8 percent of the females reported experiencing at least one type of abuse from a same-sex partner. Controlling behaviors were the most common type of abuse, followed by emotional abuse (*Journal of Adolescent Health, 2002*).

### What's unique for LGBTQQ youth

- Those in same-sex relationships typically experience the same types of violence as those in opposite-sex relationships, but same-sex partners or transgender partners may have the additional threat and fear of being “outed” by their partner.
- Lack of access to models of healthy adult same-sex relationships.
- Additionally, youth may struggle with accessing help because of...
  - Shame or Embarrassment – Internalized Homophobia or Transphobia
  - Fear of not Being Believed or Taken Seriously.
  - Fear of Retaliation, Harassment, Rejection or Bullying.
  - Less Legal Protection.

### Resources on Relationship Violence and LGBTQQ Youth

- The first is an online video from [thatsnotcool.com](http://thatsnotcool.com), a site created and maintained by [Futures without Violence](http://Futures without Violence). That'snotcool.com is intended for teens, and works to address dating violence occurring online and through cell phones. One video features a lesbian couple and tackles the issue of pressures to share passwords.
- The other resource is from [Loveisrespect.org](http://Loveisrespect.org), which is also a website intended for youth and young adults. This site (created by Break the Cycle and the National Dating Abuse Hotline) includes information on [maintaining healthy LGBTQQ relationships](#) and some very basic information about [LGBTQQ abusive relationships](#).